

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Georgia is situated between 30° 19' and 35° N. lat. and 80° 52' and 84° 47' W. long. It is bounded north by Tennessee; north-east by South Carolina; south-east by the Atlantic; south by Florida; and west by Alabama and West Florida. Its mean length is 300 miles, and mean breadth 194 miles; the area being 58,200 square miles, or 37,120,000 acres.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.

From the ocean for the distance of seven miles there is a margin of islands and marshes, intersected by rivers, creeks, and miles, which communicate with each other, and form an inland navigation for vessels of 100 tons, along the whole coast. These sea-islands consist of salt marsh, and of a species of land called hammock, which produces cotton of a superior quality. A narrow margin on the coast of the main consists also of salt marshes and hammock lands. Immediately back of this are the pine barrens, interspersed with numerous inland swamps. The rivers and creeks have also near their mouths, marshy lands, called brackish swamps, and higher up the river tide swamps, which are entirely fresh. Both of these and the salt marshes are overflowed partially or wholly, at the return of the tide. The pine barrens reach from 60 to 90 miles from the coast. Beyond this commences a country of sand hills, from 30 to 40 miles wide, interspersed with fertile tracts, and extending to the falls of the rivers. The part of the state above the falls of the rivers is called the Upper country, and has generally a strong fertile soil. Cotton is the principal production. It is of two kinds; the black-seed or sea-island, and the green seed or upland. Rice is extensively cultivated in the swamps of the low country. The fruits are figs, oranges, melons, pomegranates, olives, lemons, &c. The forests afford fine timber, chiefly oak and pine.

RIVERS.

Savannah river separates the state from South Carolina. It is navigable for large vessels 18 miles, to Savannah, and for smaller vessels to the falls at Augusta, 140 miles further. Above the falls, boats can go 60 miles without obstruction. The Ogeechee falls into the ocean 15 miles south-west of Savannah. It runs south-east, and discharges itself into the Atlantic through several mouths 60 miles south-west of Savannah. It is navigable for vessels of 30 tons as far as Milledgeville on the Ogeechee branch, 200 miles from the ocean. The bar at the mouth has 14 feet at low water. Satilla river enters the ocean north of Cumberland island. It rises near Cypress swamp, in the country of the Creek Indians. The St. Mary's is a remarkably deep river. It rises in Ekefanoke swamp, and after a very crooked course of 150 miles, falls into the ocean between Cumberland and Amelia islands. It is navigable to its source. Flint river joins the Chatahochee in the south-west corner of the state, and the united stream takes the name of Apalachicola. The Chatahochee rises in the northern part of the state, and in the lower part of its course forms the boundary between Georgia and Alabama.

ISLANDS AND SWAMPS.

The principal islands on the coast are Tybee, Osauba, St. Catharine's, Sapelo, St. Simon's, and Cumberland. Ekefanoke swamp is partly in this state, and partly in Florida. It is 180 miles in circumference, and abounds with alligators, snakes, frogs, and swarms of insects, which render it uninhabitable by any human being. Cypress swamp is near the sources of Satilla river.

CLIMATE.

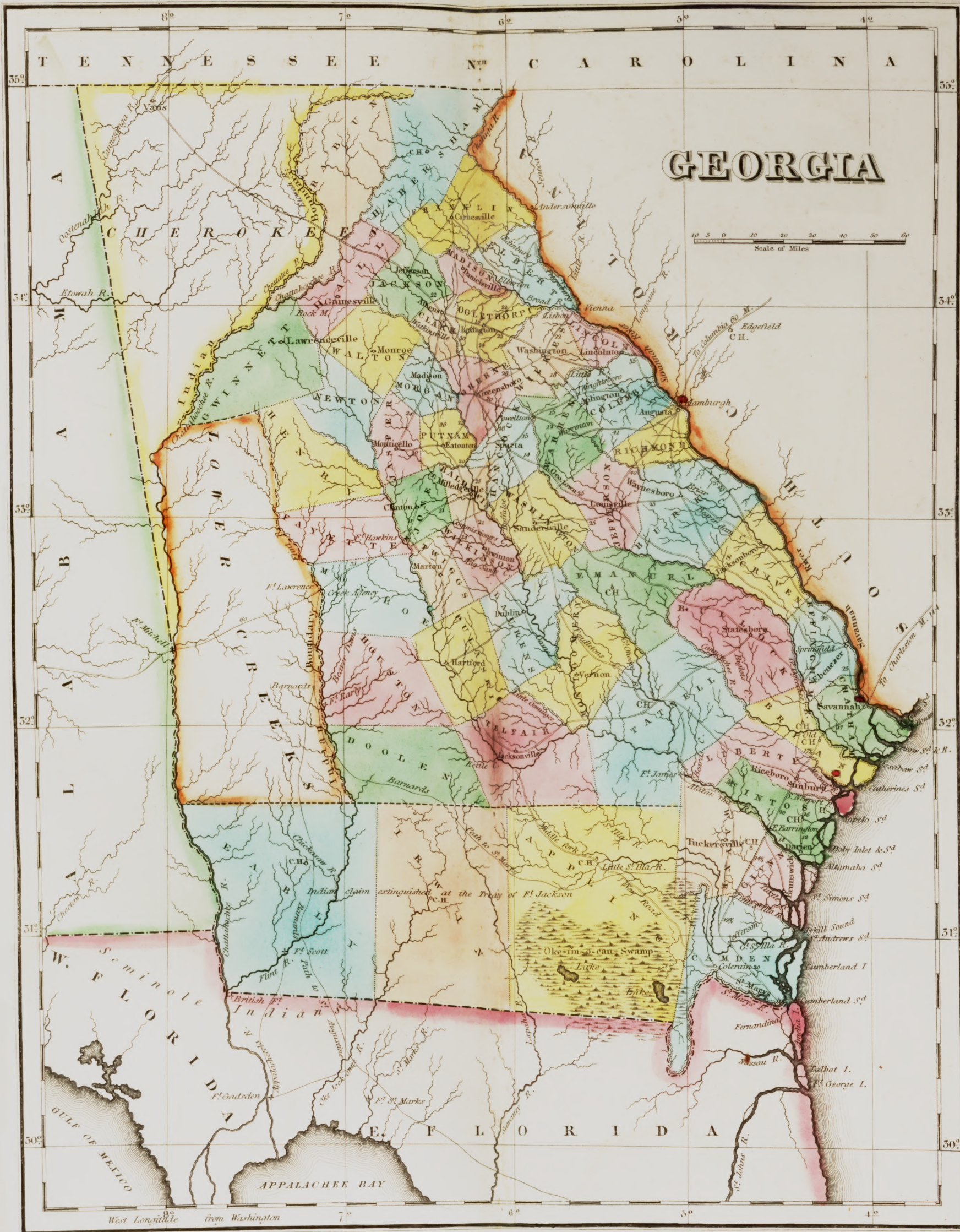
The low country has an agreeable, healthy climate, for eight or nine months in the year; but in the latter part of summer and fall, it is often sickly, except on the sea islands, which are generally healthy. The climate of the upper country is generally agreeable, and in the north-west, near the foot of the mountains, it is esteemed among the best in the Atlantic states.

CIVIL DIVISIONS AND POPULATION.

Counties.	Whites.	Free blacks.	Slaves.	All others.	Total.
Appling,	1178	8	78	0	1264
Baldwin,	2622	1	3042	0	5665
Town of Milledgeville,	865	8	1196	0	2069
Bryan,	759	24	2238	0	3021
Bullock,	1877	4	697	0	2578
Burke,	5673	94	5830	0	11377
Candler,	1278	29	2095	0	3402
Town of St. Mary's,	406	19	345	1	771
Town of Jefferson,	124	3	42	0	169
Chatham,	703	44	6467	0	7214
City of Savannah,	3866	582	3075	0	7423
Clark,	3285	21	3461	0	6767
Columbia,	3213	62	7420	0	12,695
Early,	531	1	216	0	768
Effingham,	1654	17	1347	0	3018
Elbert,	6629	0	5139	0	11,768
Emanuel,	2326	35	367	0	2928
Franklin,	7240	26	1774	0	9040
Glynn,	643	15	2760	0	3418
Greene,	6599	53	6937	0	13,589
Gwinnett,	4050	1	538	0	4589
Habersham,	2868	0	277	0	3145
Hall,	4681	6	399	0	5086
Hancock,	5847	24	6863	0	12,734
Irwin,	372	0	39	0	411
Jackson,	6346	12	1997	0	8353
Jasper,	9086	54	5494	0	14,634
Jefferson,	3667	14	2680	1	6362
Town of Louisville,	265	14	414	1	694
Jones,	9300	48	6381	0	15,729
Town of Clinton,	320	16	505	0	841
Laurens,	3450	11	1975	0	5435
Liberty,	1641	17	3037	0	6695
Lincoln,	3378	17	3063	0	6458
McIntosh,	1343	71	3715	0	5129
Madison,	2829	2	904	0	3735
Montgomery,	1165	1	703	0	1869
Morgan,	7463	12	6045	0	13,520
Oglethorpe,	6703	5	7338	0	14,046
Pulaski,	3237	25	2021	0	5283
Putnam,	8208	26	7241	0	15,475
Rabun,	509	0	15	0	524
Richmond,	3667	110	4831	0	8608
Scriven,	2090	18	1833	0	3941
Tatnall,	2063	13	568	0	2644
Telfair,	1423	35	646	0	2104
Twiggs,	6968	17	3462	0	10,447
Town of Marion,	128	0	65	0	193
Walton,	3536	5	621	0	4192
Warren,	6330	59	4041	0	10,630
Washington,	6697	32	3898	0	10,627
Wayne,	671	6	333	0	1010
Wilkes,	7499	56	9336	1	16,122
Town of Washington,	339	7	349	0	695
Wilkinson,	5516	13	1463	0	6992
	18,566	1763	149,656	4	340,989

CHIEF TOWNS.

Savannah, the largest town, and the centre of commerce for the state, is on Savannah river, 18 miles from the bar at its mouth. Vessels drawing 14 feet water can come up to the city; larger vessels receive their cargoes three miles below. Augusta is on the Savannah river, 127 miles by land north of Savannah. Large quantities of cotton and other produce are brought to Augusta, from the back country, and carried down the river to Savannah. Milledgeville, the seat of government, is on Ogeechee river, near the centre of the state. Darien is on Altamaha river, 12 miles from the bar at its mouth. It will probably soon be a place of great importance, as it is the centre of commerce for the country on the Altamaha and its branches, which is rapidly becoming populous. Savannah, Brunswick, and St. Mary's are on the sea-coast, south-west of Savannah. Petersburg is on Savannah river, 53 miles above Augusta. Washington is 50 miles north-west of Augusta. Athens is on a branch of the Ogeechee, about 70 miles north of Milledgeville.



EDUCATION.

The university of Georgia consists of a college called Franklin college, established at Athens, and of an academy, either established or to be established in each county. This body of institutions is under the direction of a Senatus Academicus, consisting of the governor and senate of the state, and 15 trustees. The senatus academicus appoints a board of commissioners in each county, to superintend the academy of the county, and the inferior schools. In 1817, \$200,000 were appropriated by the legislature for the establishment of free schools throughout the state.

RELIGION.

The baptists and methodists are by far the most numerous religious denominations. There are but few settled ministers in the state.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

In 1820 Georgia was the sixth state in the union in the value of her exports. The amount was \$5,594,823, and consisted almost wholly of domestic produce. The staple of the state is cotton. Most of the produce is exported in ships belonging to the merchants of the northern states. The shipping of the state, in 1821, amounted only to 14,662 tons. The amount of revenue paid by the state into the national treasury in 1815, was \$262,453. The value of manufactures in 1810 was \$3,658,481.

INDIAN COUNTRY.

The western part of the state is in possession of the Indians, viz. the Creeks and Cherokees. The Indian country lately embraced more than 40,000 square miles, or two-thirds of the whole state; but, by the treaty of Fort Jackson, the claim of the Creeks was extinguished to more than 11,000 square miles in the southern part of the state, including the whole country below the parallel of 31° 33'; and by another treaty made in January, 1821, the extensive tract between Flint and Ockmulgee rivers was ceded to the United States. The Creeks now own in this state about 8000 square miles, lying between Flint and Chatahochee rivers. The Cherokees lately possessed about 16,000 square miles in the northern part of the state; but in 1819, they ceded a large district of it to the United States.

GOVERNMENT.

The first constitution of Georgia was adopted in February, 1777, when the then existing parishes were formed into counties. In 1785, a second constitution was formed, and, in 1789, was amended. The existing, being the third constitution, was adopted in May, 1798. In its principal features it resembles those of a majority of the state constitutions. The legislature (styled *The General Assembly*), consists of a senate and house of representatives. The members of the former body are chosen annually, one from each county. Each senator must be 25 years of age, and possess a freehold of \$500, or taxable property value \$1000. The representatives are also annually chosen by counties, each sending at least one, but no county can send more than four. A representative must be 21 years of age, and possess a freehold of \$250, or taxable property value \$500. The governor is chosen for two years by the assembly. He must be 30 years of age, and possess 300 acres of land, or other property to the amount of four thousand dollars. The elective franchise is exercised by all persons twenty-one years of age and upwards, who have paid taxes one year, and resided in the county six months previous to the election. The judicial power is vested in a superior court, composed of four judges; in an inferior court in each county, consisting of five judges; and in justices' courts, consisting of one justice of the peace, assisted by seven jurors. The judges of the superior courts are elected for the term of three years by the assembly, and those of the inferior courts annually by the voters in each county. Justices of the peace are elected annually by the voters in each militia captain's district.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Of the thirteen provinces which declared themselves independent states in 1776, Georgia was the last settled. The country lying within its present boundaries was, previous to the year 1733, a wilderness; and, though comprehended within the charter of Carolina, had been claimed by Spain as well as England. The sufferings of the English poor from the existing state of trade and industry, led to the first attempt at settlement in Georgia. A company was formed for the purpose of assisting such as might be disposed to emigrate in search of the means of subsistence. To this company George Oglethorpe, and a corporation of twenty-one persons were associated under the title of "The Trustees for settling the colony of Georgia." In November of that year, a large sum of money having been subscribed, one hundred and sixty persons embarked at Gravesend, under the direction of general James Oglethorpe, and arrived at Charleston, in January, 1733. From this place Oglethorpe proceeded to explore the country destined for their place of settlement. A treaty was held with the Creek Indians, and a large tract of land obtained by cession. On a high bluff overlooking a river, the foundation of a town was laid, which received the name of Savannah, after the Indian name of the river. Here the settlement was commenced in the spring of 1733; but the injudicious system of the trustees, and, perhaps, the character of the settlers themselves, impeded a rapid advance. Taking as their model the feudal tenures, the trustees granted their lands in tail-male; which, on the termination of male descendants of the grantee, were to revert to the donors, to be again granted to such persons as would be most likely to render personal services. The condition upon which the lands were parcelled out was military duty. Each possessor was to appear in arms, and take the field when called upon for the public defence. Any part of the land which was not enclosed, cleared, and cultivated within eighteen years, was to revert to the trustees. By another regulation, more reconcilable with good policy, the importation of negroes and the use of rum was absolutely prohibited.

These restrictions drove many settlers into Carolina, where lands were held in fee simple. The number of inhabitants in the colony continued, nevertheless, to increase. In 1734, about six hundred emigrants arrived; but being principally idle and dissolute characters, the 'cankers of a calm world,' they were little fitted for the toil of clearing a wilderness of wood. For the purpose of obtaining settlers more suitable to the business of colonizing, the trustees divided the country on the Savannah and other rivers, into lots of 50 acres, and offered a lot to each person who would make a settlement. In consequence of these regulations, a large number of hardy emigrants arrived soon afterwards from Scotland and Germany. In addition to a previous grant, the parliament now gave twenty-five thousand pounds for the benefit of the colony. In this state of things war took place between Spain and England, an event calculated to retard the prosperity of Georgia, from her liability to invasion on the side of Florida and Havana. Oglethorpe was appointed commander in chief of the king's forces in South Carolina and Georgia, and immediately applied himself assiduously to the task of defence. He brought with him six hundred soldiers into Georgia; and having erected forts for the defence of the province, and secured the friendship of the Creeks, whom the Spaniards had endeavoured to excite to hostilities, he found himself strong enough to attempt an attack upon a Spanish settlement: South Carolina granted a large sum of money for the purpose, and troops were raised in the Carolinas and Virginia. With these troops, four hundred regulars and some Indians, Oglethorpe invaded Florida. St. Augustine was the object of his enterprise, which proved unsuccessful, and was abandoned, greatly to his mortification. In 1742, this invasion was retaliated by a large Spanish force. An expedition of thirty-two sail, with three thousand men, arrived in the river Altamaha, and took possession of fort St. Simon, which had been previously abandoned by Oglethorpe. The Spanish commander next attempted to proceed through the woods to the attack of fort Frederica, on the island of St. Simon; but finding unlooked for obstacles in his way, and being deceived by a stratagem of Oglethorpe, he re-embarked his troops in haste, leaving behind many pieces of artillery, provisions, and military stores, and returned to Florida. Georgia was preserved on this occasion principally by the address and skill of general Oglethorpe.

The restoration of peace, which took place soon afterwards, freed Georgia from one source of inquiet: but the condition of the colony was materially different from that of the others settled by the English in North America. Notwithstanding upwards of one hundred thousand pounds sterling had been granted by parliament and individuals, and that emigration had been encouraged by premiums, the state of things at the middle of the eighteenth century was very unpromising. Many of the emigrants had abandoned the settlement, and those who remained with difficulty obtained a scanty subsistence. The regulations respecting the tenure of land before mentioned, the prohibition of the importation of negroes and of rum operated to produce this effect. By prohibiting the importation of rum, the trustees had deprived the colonists of an excellent market in the West Indies for the sale of their lumber. So trifling was the produce of this now productive soil, that about the year 1750 the whole annual exports of Georgia did not exceed ten thousand pounds sterling. In the year 1820 her exports exceeded six and a half millions of dollars. The complaints arising from their mismanagement, at last induced the trustees to surrender the charter to the crown. In 1752, the government was taken into the hands of the king, and the same privileges and regulations as to land and trade that prevailed in the other colonies, were extended to Georgia. The first good effect of the change of government was felt in the establishment of a general assembly of representatives in 1755. In 1763, all the lands lying between the rivers Altamaha and St. Mary's were annexed to Georgia by a royal proclamation. From this period the colony began to make a rapid progress in prosperity and population. The rich swamps and low lands on the rivers began to be brought into cultivation, and the effects of judicious government were soon visible in the increased amount of exports. In 1763, the value of exports was no more than twenty-seven thousand pounds sterling; but, in 1773, the value had risen to upwards of one hundred and twenty-one thousand pounds. Much of this increase of prosperity is attributed to the influence of governor Wright, who first set the example of cultivating the low lands and river swamps, thereby acquiring for himself an ample fortune, and directing the industry of the people into a proper channel.

Georgia, at the commencement of the American revolution, was only in the infancy of her strength, and had just begun to enjoy some of the blessings of peace and the advantages of a better system of government. Her inhabitants had never experienced the evils which the tyrannical administration of the Stuarts had inflicted on the elder provinces, and knew the operation of the royal government only by its favourable contrast with that of the trustees. Notwithstanding these motives for continuing in connection with England, the people of this province did not hesitate to take part with their northern brethren. In March, 1775, they appointed a delegate to congress; and in July of the same year a convention of delegates assembled, by whom the sanction of the province was given to the measures of congress. During the war which ensued, Georgia was overrun by the British troops, and the principal inhabitants were compelled to abandon their possessions and fly into the neighbouring states. In proportion to their numbers, the exertions and losses of her citizens were as great as in any of the states.

After the conclusion of the revolutionary war, Georgia suffered on her frontiers from the incursions of the Creek Indians, whose hostility has been too often provoked by the whites. In 1790, a treaty was concluded with the head warriors of this nation, by which the boundaries of Georgia were established, and since that period several other treaties have been entered into. By a treaty held at fort Wilkinson, in 1802, the Creeks ceded to the United States a large tract of country, which has since been ceded by the United States to Georgia, and forms the south-west corner of the state. Georgia possessed, as included within her limits, a claim to an immense body of western land, of which, in 1795, the legislature sold a large portion, said to contain 22 millions of acres, to a company, by whom it was again sold to other purchasers. In the succeeding year the legislature declared the sale unconstitutional, and on this ground, and that it was obtained through bribery, they declared it to be void, and ordered all the records to be burned. In 1802, Georgia ceded to the United States all the lands west of the Chatahochee river, and of a certain line, including the contested lands; and, in 1814, Congress passed an act by which a compromise was made with the Yazoo purchasers, who received a certain amount of public stock. The recent history of Georgia is barren of important events.

LIST OF GOVERNORS, &c.

1732 James Oglethorpe.	1754 John Reynolds.
1743 William Stephens, acting-governor.	1757 Henry Ellis.
1751 Henry Parker, acting-governor.	1760 James Wright.
1771 James Habersham, acting-governor.	
<i>During the revolution.</i>	
1775 William Ewin, president of council of safety.	
1776 Archibald Bullock, president of council of safety.	
1777 Button Gwinnet.	
<i>Under the constitution.</i>	
1777 John Adam Trutler.	1790 Edward Telfair.
1778 John Houston.	1793 George Matthews.
1779 George Walter.	1796 Jared Irwin.
1780 Richard Howley.	1798 James Jackson.
1781 Nathan Brownson.	1801 Josiah Tatnall.
1782 John Martin.	1802 John Milledge.
1783 Lyman Hall.	1808 Jared Irwin.
1784 John Houston.	1809 David B. Mitchell.
1785 Samuel Elbert.	1813 Peter Early.
1786 Edward Telfair.	1815 David B. Mitchell.
1787 George Matthews.	1817 William Rabun.
1788 George Handley.	1819 John Clarke.
1789 George Walton.	1821 John Clarke.

PLACES REMARKABLE FOR BATTLES AND SIEGES, INDICATED BY A FLAG.

1778 Savannah: battle between the Americans and British, in which the former are defeated, and the British take Savannah. December 29.	Chatham.
1779 <i>Savannah</i> : taken by the British, after a slight resistance. Jan.	Liberty.
<i>Augusta</i> : taken by the British. Jan.	Richmond.
<i>Briar's Creek</i> : battle between the Americans and British, in which the latter are defeated by the British.	
<i>Savannah</i> : besieged by the Americans and French, who are defeated in an attempt to storm it. Oct. 9.	Chatham.